

# SHORT TALKS ON LIVE THEMES

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By G. P. SCHULTZ, Th.M.





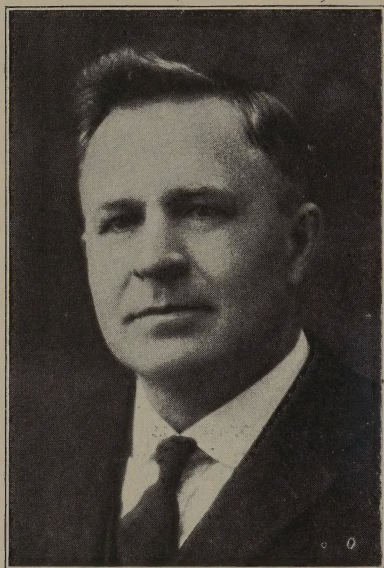
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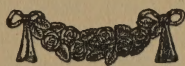
REV. G. P. SCHULTZ, Th. M.



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## PREFACE

We present this booklet to the public with the sincere desire that it may glorify God in whose name it has been written and may it prosper to His glory.

These short talks have been prepared in the midst of a multitude of duties, and are not written for the critic. It is my earnest hope that this small book may prove helpful to all who read it. Will the reader join us in the prayer that God will accompany these words always? Without Him they can be but mere words; with His power in them they will accomplish His work.

We are indebted to various sources for some of the thoughts here presented.

The Author.



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## THE SON OF GOD CROWDED OUT

Luke 2:7

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The greatest sin and step towards a downward career that the Jews ever committed was when they crowded out the Son of God. As we read in the text: "There was no room for him in the inn." "He came unto his own and his own received him not" (Jno. 1:11). This spirit characterized the age when Jesus came into this world. There was no room for Him. But there was room for all other things. That very same spirit characterizes the present age. The Son of God is crowded out—no room for Him.

### The Individual

There are very few individuals who are not crowding out the Son of God in some way. If Christ is not given the first place in everything we do, He is crowded out; if we do not let Christ control the faculties of our mind and every member of our body, He is crowded out. If we do not ask His guidance in every detail of our life, He is crowded out.

### The Home

According to Scripture, Jesus is the head of the home, and is able and willing to direct the affairs of the home in such a way that it can be enjoyed by everyone of its members. In many homes Christ is not given an opportunity to direct its affairs and therefore there are so many unhappy homes. Christ is crowded out of the home. If we do not take the time to read God's Word and neglect the family worship, Christ is crowded out of our home. Quite frequently family worship is carried on

as long as there is plenty of time. But when there is much work at hand the family worship is made as brief as possible and at times abandoned entirely. Christ is crowded out. If every home in the United States would make room for Jesus and let Him control and direct the affairs of the home, our United States would be the best place on this side of heaven.

### The Church

It is a sad fact that the church is crowding out Jesus very fast. There is no desire for preaching that goes to the heart and makes people uneasy in their unscrupulous doings. They do not want to hear about the deity of Jesus and much less about the blood of Jesus that was shed for the sins of the world. They do not want to hear that holiness is one of the essentials for entering heaven. Christ is crowded out—no room for Him. The church people have become a pleasure-seeking crowd. There is room for all sorts of worldly socials and pleasures, but the Son of God, the world's Savior, is crowded out. If the church would have a real house-cleaning, do away with everything that is displeasing to God and give all the room to Christ, the church would be able to do her duty and be an institution for God. Many congregations that have crowded out Christ are now teaching the word of Satan.

### The Schools

When the Bibles were ruled out of the public schools in some states, it certainly was a step towards a downward career—Christ was crowded out of the schools. The public school is next to the home where the children should get acquainted with the great fundamentals of the Christian religion which centers in Jesus Christ, revealed to us in the blessed Word of God. Christ is crowded out of our public schools. This is also true of our higher institutions of learning. Some of our uni-



versities are turning out more infidels than anything else. Even many of the seminaries have no room for the Son of God. Jesus is no longer recognized as the Son of God. His death and His blood are set aside. His teachings are of no account. That Christ is crowded out of the seminaries is a very sad fact.

### The Nations

The nations as a whole have crowded out the Son of God. I wonder how many times He was acknowledged as the Prince of Peace in the peace treaty. The following words were taken out of the "Gospel Trumpet": "Some have grieved because God was not acknowledged in the peace treaty. He ought to be, but to do so is a delicate task. A confession of sin in the treaty would be more appropriate, for it could mention the Deity and still not speak of him as a national God or as a God who gave us the victory. Senator Sherman, of Illinois, proposed to write the name of God in the preamble, and a lively debate arose. Senator Lodge said it would be a travesty to invoke divine blessings on such a treaty. One senator said that if the Senate chaplain's prayers had accomplished any improvements, he had not noticed it. Senator Sherman said he was not a member of any church and had never prayed in his life. All of which goes to show the need of prayers by those who know the value of prayer. The Bible tells us to pray for those in authority, and a good time to do so is now when some of our representatives can not do it for themselves.

### The Results

"His own received him not." Misery, woe and sorrow have been upon the people that crowded out the Son of God. The same will come upon the individual home, church, school and nation, that are crowding out the Son

of God. Those that are crowding out the Son of God  
are crowding themselves out of a home in heaven

Someone will knock when the door is shut;  
Hear the voice saying, 'I know you not.'  
Someone shall call and shall not be heard,  
Vainly will strive when the door is barred,  
Someone will fail the saints' reward,  
Shall you? Shall I?"

## SELLING OUT!

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“What will ye give me?” Matt. 26:15.—This question was put to the Jewish authorities by Judas. It is evident that Judas was the financier of the company of the disciples. Each of the disciples had his peculiar gift and traits of character, which if properly directed into the right channel would serve as a blessing for all under their influence.

Judas Iscariot was trusted with the power of purchasing of the necessities for the maintenance of the company. Judas had in his heart the greed for personal gain, also knowing that the Jewish authorities were eager to get Jesus. “What will you give me?” said Judas to the authorities. And they came to an agreement for a sum equivalent to \$16.95 in United States money. Judas sold out the Christ for \$16.95! Indeed a poor bargain. This deed brought upon Judas an eternal disgrace. We have never heard of a parent that named a child Judas Iscariot.

### Many Judases today!

There are many people in these days that have sold Jesus for less than \$16.95, yes, and this is true of people that have lived with Jesus even longer than Judas did; they betrayed Him and put Him to shame by an act or deed that was not worth \$16.95.

### Sold Out!

For pleasures.—The average person in our day is pleasure-mad. Everything that is godly goes on the altar of pleasure. What a pity to sell Jesus, the only



satisfaction of the soul, for pleasures, and therewith forfeit eternal life.

For fashion.—Women in these evil days have not sense enough to dress decently. They will sacrifice on the altar of fashion, decency, character and honor. Often times we see women in these days that have not enough clothes around them to cover their bodies decently. Because of such women, many a man has been shipwrecked. Sold out for style.

For money.—Many a man has set his heart on personal gain, or has greed for money, and it is sad to say, that on the altar of money, they have sacrificed everything that is godly: the prayer meeting goes and the Sunday services go. Twenty-five cents for the Lord and twenty-five dollars for selfish motives. We find many a rich man in these days that does not see anything else but money. Sold out for money!

For ungodly companions.—Many a girl has sold out for an ungodly young man who was addicted to all kinds of habits, who had no thoughts of God or of Christ, nor of the happiness of his bride. This also holds true with the young man who sold out to a young lady who cares mostly for dances, dress and painted face, looking more like a mummy than a human being. They sold out Christ! Their penalty is coming!

### The Night Follows

It is worth remembering that when Judas made the trade or purposed to make it, he went out, and it was night immediately. No man can give himself up for a price without entering into the night. Let us do what Jesus said: "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you, and if your light turns to darkness, how great is that darkness."

**"What Will Ye Give Me?"**

Pleasure, style, money, ungodly companions? Sold out! What a pity! You can sell Him today, but He can never be bought through eternity. You can dispose of Him now, but He contains the greatest values that any heart could ever conceive of, both for time and eternity. Let us today close a bargain and a contract to be sealed eternally, that we are not open for any trade or any departure from the living faith.

## BEING OUR OWN ENEMY

Hosea 13:9.

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God said, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself," after they had lost their country, power, influence, etc. Israel was victorious and subdued all her enemies as long as they were not their own enemies. But as soon as they became their own enemies, their destruction came.

### Israel Became Her Own Enemy

when she became disobedient to the commands of God. God had promised them victory along the way with a prosperous country where milk and honey flowed. They should have this for an eternal possession, and no enemy would be able to take it away from them, if they would be obedient to God. But they became disobedient to God and with this they became their own enemies and their downward career toward destruction commenced. This filled their hearts with the thought that they wanted a king like the mighty nations. In other words: God could no longer rule over them. They did not want to submit to His will. God was willing to rule over them and bring them safely through, but they preferred men to rule over them. They became a still greater enemy to themselves. The king came and ruled over the Jewish nations; this created pride in their hearts. How true is the saying, "Pride goeth before a fall." Israel was now her greatest enemy, after being disobedient to God, having chosen a human king to rule them, and their hearts being filled with pride.



## **We May Be Our Own Enemies**

Many people that are living today are their own enemies, and many of them are unaware of it, just like Israel. As soon as boys and girls, men and women, become disobedient to God, they become their own enemies. If we would realize what a great step toward a downward career it is to be disobedient to God, we would be more careful. If you want to destroy yourself, continue to be disobedient to God and destruction is bound to follow.

We are our own enemies when we live after the dictates of the flesh. The flesh craves pleasure, lust, honor, etc. If the cravings for the mentioned things are satisfied, you are destroying yourselves. We are our own enemies when we have hatred in our hearts. God says: "He that hateth his brother is a murderer." The one that hates somebody else really hates himself, and instead of hurting the other fellow, he is really hurting himself.

We are our own enemies when we allow jealousy in our hearts. We are our own enemies when we give ourselves over to all kinds of habits like tobacco, drinking, gambling, lying, etc. In brief, we are our own enemies if our hearts are not consecrated to God.

## **What Are The Results Of Being Our Own Enemy?**

Very often by indulging in the things we have mentioned, we are destroying our bodies and minds. Thousands of young lives are destroyed every year by the use of the cigarettes and by indulging in other destructive habits.

Real happiness is destroyed by being our own enemy. There is no real happiness outside of Jesus. And to be happy in Jesus means to be separated from all that belongs to the world. If we are our own enemies we are

destroying our own happiness. Many young men and women are expecting to be happy in some beautiful little home that they will own some day, but by being their own enemies they are destroying all this. The happiness of thousands of future homes is destroyed long before they are ever built, because they were their own enemies. If we are our own enemies we are not only destroying our earthly possessions, but also our eternal home with Jesus.

### **Are We Guilty?**

We find the remedy in the last verse we have read. God says, "In me is thine help." God draws nigh unto every one that draws nigh unto Him.

## LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP

Luke 5:4.

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Jesus told Simon to launch out into the deep and to let down the net for a draught. Peter was obedient to the Master's command and the results were very good. Thus the Master commands us to launch out into the deep things of God.

### Shallow Water

There are many people in the world that never learn to swim, although they have put on their bathing suits and are in the water with the other folks at the beach. Why these folks don't learn to swim, is because they will not venture out into the deep, but stay where the water is shallow. This is true with many Christians; they have confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior and are comparing themselves with other Christians, listen to the same sermons, and sing the same hymns. But when it comes to a place where real faith and conviction in God is necessary, they fall back because they always stayed close to the shore. In other words, they are in shallow water. When these people are asked how they are getting along in the Christian life, they generally answer, "No one is perfect," and away they go upon another subject. These people in shallow water cannot trust God without being the owner of property, or having a good bank account and having provided enough food for at least a year in advance and then of course they can peacefully say: "The good Lord will provide for another year." But should they lose their property and the bank account would vanish and there would only be enough food for another meal in the house, with no job

in sight and severe sickness in the family, then it would be impossible for them to trust God. They have never launched out into the deep things of God, and therefore never learned to trust God at all times under all circumstances.

### Launching Out Into the Deep

When we were boys we went out to bathe in the ditches along the road in shallow water. We tried to swim when our hands touched the ground and we stayed above the water. But the water didn't carry us. We never really learned to swim as we long as we stayed in shallow water. But when we launched out into the deep we soon learned to swim. When our hands could not touch the ground any longer, it was either go down or stay up. Of course all efforts were put forth to stay above the surface and soon the secret of swimming was discovered. So it is in the Christian life. Launch out into the deep water, into the deeper things of God and you will learn to trust God at all times. Then Jesus will be first and bank account, property, honor, etc., will be secondary. We can trust God without property and bank accounts. We have learned to swim in the abundant, all-sufficient grace of God. The deeper the water the greater the joy. Praise His name forever.

### Cutting the Shore Lines

As long as there is a shore line fastened to a boat, it is impossible to launch out into the deep. The reason so many people never get into the deep things of God is because there are shore lines that are not cut. All those that have launched out into the deep and are enjoying the sweet fellowship of Jesus, have cut all shore lines. The principal shore line that is holding many from launching out into the deep is the selfish "I." The "I" must disappear entirely if a person wants to launch out into the deep things of God. "Jesus, it's you,



not I." Another shoreline that prevents so many from launching out into the deep is the companionship with the world and its pleasures. A complete separation from the world is necessary. The shore lines of worldly pleasures are holding the church in shallow waters. She makes efforts to launch out into the deep but the prayers are lacking and instead of going onward she moves backwards into shallow waters. This is also true with many individuals. "God help us to cut this shore line of companionship with the world."

An incomplete surrender to God is another shore line that holds many back in shallow water. There are so many people today that surrender only certain things and to certain points and a strong shore line is still holding them. May God have mercy upon them. This shore line can only be cut by a full surrender to God. With the Lord's help cut it and launch out into the deep.

What a blessing to know that all shore lines are cut and we can launch out into the great promises of God!

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!  
Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He'll be with me to the end."

### Brethren

Where are we? Are we still in an unsatisfied condition, in shallow water, or have we launched out into the deep with all the shore lines cut, and are now enjoying the best that God has for His children?

## GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

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**"Grieve not the holy spirit of God."**—Eph. 4:30.

Our text strikes the most vital point as to hindering the growth of our Christian life. The first step in back-sliding is grieving the Holy Spirit. Therefore the Scripture says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit."

### The Holy Spirit

must have His own way in the believer, and when He has His way, He will perform wonderful things in, through, and for, the believer. The fruits thereof are as we find in Gal. 5:22—love, joy, peace, etc. Many precious fruits, and how pleased people are with such fruits! We like to be near them. We like their fellowship and they will like ours, if we have similar fruits. Not only the fellowship with such Christians is sweet, but the fellowship with God—"I walk with Him, I talk with Him, and He tells me, I am His own." We say it is glorious to be in such a state as we have mentioned. All this is wrought in us when we let the Holy Spirit have His way in our hearts. We can destroy all this, that we have mentioned, and finally be lost, simply by grieving the Holy Spirit.

A Spirit-filled child of God is heavenly-minded. And God delights to look down upon His heavenly-minded children. You have noticed as well as I have, that some heavenly-minded Christians become worldly along different lines. This is true of individuals and also of congregations. When worldliness has gripped our hearts, then the Holy Spirit is grieved.

A Spirit-filled child of God has pure thoughts and will not allow the mind to meditate on impure things.

We cannot avoid the coming of evil and impure thoughts, but we can avoid dwelling on them. As soon as we allow our minds to dwell on impure thoughts, the Holy Spirit is grieved.

A Spirit-filled child of God will not cherish non-Christian feelings against his brother or sister in Christ or against unsaved friends—such as believing that we are better than other people; allowing hate to creep into our hearts; speaking of other people's faults, etc. If these things are cherished, the Holy Spirit is grieved.

A Spirit-filled child of God will not read corrupt literature. The mind of thousands of Christians has been defiled by reading corrupt literature and the Holy Spirit is grieved. Are we guilty of grieving the Holy Spirit along these mentioned lines? The Scripture says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit."

### The Effects Upon the Christian's Life

We lose the joy and comfort of our Christian religion. There are many people at present that really enjoyed and found comfort in serving Jesus, but now they say, "I have no joy and comfort in my Christian life." Why? Because they are guilty of grieving the Holy Spirit along some of the lines mentioned.

We lose our usefulness. Some people tell us that they were used of the Lord, but they began to lose out, and finally they were not used at all in the Master's service. And often it looks as though they had been entirely set aside. What is the reason? In nearly every case they have grieved the Holy Spirit.

We lose that tender conscience that so wonderfully did smite us for the least wrong committed; but gradually it became hushed. They can do things that they would not dare to do previously. How is this brought about? The answer is, they have grieved the Holy Spirit.

We lose our grip on God. A Spirit-filled child of

God has a wonderful grip on God in prayer and in service, but this is lost. The hushing of the conscience precedes the losing of the grip on God. The Holy Spirit has been grieved.

The final outcome is a hard-hearted backslider. There are thousands of backsliders all over the country, just on account of grieving the Holy Spirit. Are you guilty? Repent!

### How to Avoid Grieving the Holy Spirit

The Scripture says, "Watch and pray." If this is done continually in a humble way with obedience to our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, the Spirit will not be grieved. The Scripture says, "Grieve not."



## **O YE HYPOCRITES!**

**Matthew 16:3**

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We are hypocrites if we profess to be what in truth and reality we are not. We put on a character which we are conscious does not belong to us and by which we intentionally impose upon the judgment and opinion of mankind concerning us.

### **The Name**

comes from the Greek tongue in which it primarily signified the profession of a stage-player, which is to express in speech, habit and action, not his own person and manners, but the imitation of another. The underlying principle of a hypocrite is imitation and deceit, professing and acting as a Christian without the new birth or a saving grace.

### **The Hypocrite is a Double Person**

He has one person who is natural, another who is artificial. The first is kept for himself, the other we put on as we put on our clothes. We usually put off the old clothes before we put on the new. The hypocrite puts on the new man without putting off the old man. My dear reader, if you are playing the hypocrite, you are a double person.

### **Sorts of Hypocrites**

According to Matthew 23:5 we have a description of a worldly hypocrite. This fellow makes a profession of religion and pretends to be religious merely to be seen by the world. He puts on the Christian cloak when he

appears before men, and thereby wants to make people believe that he is a Christian, but under that cloak is Satan. Romans 10:3 describes the legal hypocrite. These folks establish their own righteousness and believe that they thereby may merit heaven. We find so many of them at present. Their own righteousness is the suit in which they make this appearance, while at the same time they have no real love for God, they never submitted to the righteousness of God.

Matt. 13:20, II Pet. 2:20 give us a description of the evangelical hypocrite. This fellow rejoices under the idea that Christ has wrought out a salvation by His death for him, that he can be saved, and yet has no desire to live a holy life himself. We find this to be true at the present time. Wherever we go, we find that unsaved people are singing songs that only true Christians should sing; they take part in Christmas programs and rejoice that Christ is born but themselves do not take Him as their Saviour. This class is perhaps the largest of all.

Another class of hypocrites is described in Matt. 13:29, II Cor. 11:14, 15; we may call him the enthusiastic hypocrite. This fellow has an imaginary sight of his sins and of Christ. He talks of remarkable impulses and high feelings and thinks himself very wise and good while he lives in the most scandalous practices. Paul says, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light, therefore it is no great thing if his minister also be transformed as the minister of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their work."

### Their Work

Jesus says that their portion is a place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 24:51. Indeed it is the worst place that is to be found. It makes a person shiver, even to think of a hypocrite's doom. Why is the punishment so severe? Undoubtedly because he

played the hypocrite against better knowledge. We cannot believe the idea of a hypocrite that he is in ignorance of his hypocrisy. To commit a sin knowingly is a sin as black as hell. A hypocrite knows that he is wrong, and sins against better knowing. This makes the punishment so severe.

## WALKING IN THE LIGHT!

I John 1:7

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There is only one way to get to heaven, and that is by traveling in the day-time; it is a walk in the sunshine and light. No Christian pilgrim treads in the path of darkness, but in a clear, well-defined and lighted path. It is a walk in the open daylight that all can see which way the traveler is going.

### Progressing in the Light

To walk means to move and make progress on the path. If we were to undertake a journey to a distant land with a path unknown to us, we would indeed take the day for walking—"walking in the light." It would be of no use if we were on the path during the day, and would not walk. So it is with a Christian's life. It is not enough to say, we are on the path in the day and do not walk. We must be walking on the road, in the light—making progress on the road. The Christian pilgrim walks and does not sleep, nor sit down, nor does he yield to self-indulgences. He goes forward and is today one day nearer his resting place than yesterday. He says with Paul: "Not as though I had already attained either, were already perfect; but I follow after, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." To walk in the light is to walk uprightly, to walk in the ways of the Lord, to walk by faith and in the Spirit, to walk in the truth, to walk in love and to walk in the newness of life.

### To Walk in the Light is:

1. A safe walk.—We read in John 11:9-10: "But if a man walk in the night (not in the light) he stumbleth,



because there is no light in him." To walk in the light is to see the pitfalls and dangers on the way, and he avoids them. It is a safe walk. If a person walks by day and falls by the wayside, it is because of his own carelessness. So it is in the Christian's life. A walk in the light is perfectly safe. He sees all the dangerous places and shuns them.

2. It is not only a safe walk but also a pleasant walk. We cannot enjoy the nice and beautiful scenery along the way, when we travel in the dark. Everything looks so very dreary and disheartening, but when the beautiful sun rises and the gladsome sunbeams brighten our path, it is indeed pleasant to walk in the day. So it is in a spiritual sense. The sun of righteousness shines on our path and makes everything look beautiful on the road to heaven. And it is indeed pleasant to walk by the day and behold all graces with the spiritual eye.

3. To walk in the light is also a healthful walk. A walk early in the morning is good for the body, makes us feel refreshed all day. This is also true with the people on the way to heaven. Walking in the light is good exercise and therefore healthy for the body. Walking in the light is good exercise, because it starts the faculties of the mind and the members of the body moving for God, and that is very healthy for the spiritual man.

4. It is a walk that will catch the eye of the people in darkness. In other words, it is an attractive walk. A person that walks in the light is a happy and joyful person, and therefore attractive. A person walking in darkness is generally unhappy and downhearted. The happy person will attract the unhappy, downhearted person and win him for God and start him on the path of light. Would all professed children of God walk in the light as they should, many unsaved would be attracted and started out on the path of light.

5. And finally it is a sure walk. The one that walks in darkness does not know where he is going or where he will land. Sooner or later he will discover

that he is all wrong. The ones that walk in the light see the road. It is plainly before the traveler and he knows where it leads to. He is certain that it will end well and bring the traveler to the happy and longed-for home.

### **Brethren!**

Let us walk in the light every moment of our life, and the end of our journey will be victory, and will land us on the other side of the pearly gate. It is indeed a blessed privilege that the heavenly Father has given us: to walk in the light that comes from God.

## E N V Y

### Proverbs 27:4

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Wrath is cruel and anger is outrageous, but who is able to stand before envy? Envy is rottenness of the bones. Prov. 14:30. Nothing is so detrimental, injurious and dangerous to the Christian as envy. We should be more afraid of it than of a rattlesnake or a ravenous beast.

#### The Source of Envy

A writer has well said, "Envy is a sensation of uneasiness and disquiet, arising from the advantages which others are supposed to possess above us, accompanied with malignity towards those who possess it." It is universally admitted to be one of the blackest passions in the human heart. No one indeed, is to be condemned for defending his rights and showing displeasure against a malicious enemy, but to conceive ill-will or bad feeling toward one who has done no evil or injury to us, just because he is more prosperous than we are, is a disposition altogether unnatural. It is said that the character of an envious person is altogether odious—all disclaim it; and they who feel themselves under the influence of this passion, carefully conceal it.

The chief grounds may be reduced to three points. First: Intellectual advantages. Here is a person with a bright mind. His intellectual abilities are above his friend's. He is accomplishing things that the other fellow cannot do, although he tries but makes a failure of it. He now sees that the intellectual abilities of the other fellow are superior to his. Envy at once appears and from that very day the other fellow is a thorn in his eye, although he is innocent.

Second: There are advantages as to birth and rank. This often creates envy in the hearts of men. Here are well-to-do, refined parents with their children. These have the advantage of others in many ways because the parents are able to give them a good education and many other helpful things that pertain to a successful life. Finally, they inherit a fortune, and before they are middle-aged, they are up in the world and well-to-do, while the other fellow has tried hard, but because of not having the helpful advantages in his younger years, he has not been so successful as the other. Here is again a start for envy toward the other fellow, although he has done nothing to merit it.

Third: Envy is created by the other fellow's success in worldly pursuits. Human nature is such that it does not like to see the other fellow get ahead of him. If he does, envy appears on the scene. Rachel envied her sister Leah because of her fruitfulness. Joseph was envied by his brethren because his father loved him more than the other children. The Jews envied Paul because he preached Christ and Him crucified. Pilate knew that the Jews for envy had delivered Jesus to him because God honored the work of His Son.

### Envy Among Children of God

Envy is not only found among the worldly people, but also among the children of God. Where you find a number of God's children worshipping the Lord, envy will appear among them. Young people that are talented and can do things in a more attractive way than others are soon envied by the others. This sometimes puts one family against another. It is also true of ministers and conference workers. Sometimes one congregation will envy the other; one mission the other; etc.

### Envy Manifests Itself

when we begin to criticise. Here is a person that is humbly working for the Lord, with success. Instead of this



successful worker being remembered in prayer that he may be more successful, he is criticised unmercifully and hindered as much as possible. An envious person, as a rule, mistrusts others and is easily hurt by not getting enough honor. They believe other people are undermining them. These people are also dissatisfied, it seems, with nearly all things, and therefore unhappy, while others are receiving blessings in the meetings and are becoming happy. Of course, it is no wonder, because the heart is full of envy and there is no room for a blessing from God.

### Envy Does Much Harm

Envy destroys unity and is very often the cause of great church quarrels. Many a blessing is lost through envy and the fellowship with God and with one another destroyed. Souls are kept out of the Kingdom of God and are finally lost. Envy robs the individual and the Church of the first love, and hinders the work of the Holy Ghost in the individual, church and conference and does many other harmful things.

### The Bible Says

that envy is just as bad as rioting and drunkenness; as chambering and wantonness and strife. Envy is put on the same level with all these, therefore envy should be put off. The character of an envious person is, as a rule, hateful. Has envy found a place in our hearts? Let us put it away with the help of God. No envious person will ever enter into heaven.

May the Lord give us grace to put all these aside for Jesus' sake.

## THE CROSS

I Corinthians 2:7; Gal. 6:14

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The theme of Paul, the great preacher and greatest character of the age, was Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And he gloried in the Cross. Why did Paul select this theme? Because it was popular, or because the people were so anxious to hear about the Cross? No, it was just the opposite. The preaching of the Cross was weakness to the Romans, as they trusted in the arm of flesh. To the Greeks, the preaching of the Cross was foolishness, because they trusted in education. To the Jews, the preaching of the Cross was a stumbling block, because they did not want Jesus to be their Messiah. Paul did not preach because the people wanted to hear about the Cross, but because it was needed.

This is true of today. The preaching of the Cross is not welcomed. It is weakness, foolishness and a stumbling block to the people. If there ever was a time when the preaching of the Cross was necessary, it is today.

One look to the crucified Saviour reveals to us

### The Love of God

The Cross on Calvary reveals to us the greatest love story the world has ever seen or heard. God gave His only begotten Son to die on the Cross for the sin of the world. When He cried out, "It is finished," the promise was fulfilled which the Lord had given to the first parents when they had to leave Eden. The serpent is still in the world, but the power of sin received a blow with the statement of Jesus, "It is finished." The resur-

rection morning put the seal on the greatest labor of love for the past, present and future.

God's love to the world reveals itself in the crucified Saviour. Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.

### The Cross Reveals Sin

What did God think of sin? Look to Calvary and you will see God's thoughts about the sin into which humanity had plunged. If sin were only a common thing God would never have permitted His Son to suffer on the Cross as He did. Man has become a slave of sin since the fall, and, from that time, man has a tendency for that which displeases God—namely, sin. The whole nature of man is become depraved through the fall and works against the law of God. There is no faithfulness in their mouths—their inward part is very wicked; their throat is an open sepulchre and flatters with their tongue. *Psa. 5:9.* The sin of man is to resist God's will.

The Cross reveals to us that God hath made His Son who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. *II Cor. 5:21.* We read further in *I Peter 2:24*, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."

In *Isa. 53:4, 5* we read: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

All this was fulfilled on the Cross of Calvary. Sin was the cause of all this, therefore sin is the most abominable and horrible thing in the eyes of God. Man, who was created in the image of God, became through the fall, the slave of Satan, and therefore needed to be redeemed. God gave the best He had to redeem man--

His only begotten Son. Sin had to be punished because of its abomination in God's sight. God loved man with an everlasting love and so He made His own Son (who knew no sin), to be sin for us, thus punishing sin on the Cross in Jesus, His Son. The Son of God received the punishment we should have received. Oh! how deep goes the love story that was revealed on the Cross. Shouldn't we look to Calvary with a desire in us to be separated from sin that brought Jesus to the Cross, and to follow Him faithfully all the way?

### **God Meets Man at the Cross**

Therefore is Calvary the finest, the best, and the holiest place. Peace and rest can be found there through Jesus Christ, who carried all our sins to the Cross that we might receive joy and happiness. Only the one that comes to the Cross meets God there and makes peace with Him. The one that does not come, does not find the Redeemer. Man may look at the Cross and wonder what all has happened there; admire the holy life of Jesus; follow Him as an example; and also believe that He is merciful and able to help, but as long as he does not come as a penitent sinner to the Cross and receive Jesus as his personal Saviour, all the rest is in vain for that individual. It is not the example of Christ that washes away our sins and delivers us from sin, but it is the Blood that cleanses us from all sin.

The Cross has become the ladder to men on which a poor sinner can get to God. Praise His name.

### **Finding the Cross**

The one who has found the Cross where Jesus suffered and died is wholly comforted and joy and peace is in his heart. He gets up from his knees and walks in the light. Not only redemption is found there, but also power to live a victorious life. From the Cross, the water of life is flowing into the world. How glorious

to know that our garments have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb that was shed for the sins of the world; that we might be clothed with white garments of His righteousness so that we are able to stand before Him. There we will meet with all those that have found and loved the Cross and join together in the eternal song of praise.



## FOLLOW THOU ME

John 21:22

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Jesus, in our text, tells Peter to follow Him. This is only one of the many statements that Jesus made exhorting man to follow Him. And indeed, it is the most blessed thing in the world to follow Jesus.

### Follow Jesus

We can only follow a person who is ahead of us and who knows the way better than we do. Jesus is so much superior to us in wisdom, power, love and sympathy, that we gladly put all we have at His feet and follow Him. This world is full of snares, pitfalls and sin. The enemy of our soul does his best to make us lose the way or fall by the wayside, and besides, it is very dark. Now we, as human beings, cannot go through this world successfully unless we follow someone that has knowledge of the way and is a light in darkness. In other words, we are dependent on someone else. Somebody must help us fight the battle of life. Praise God forever, we have a perfect one to follow—namely, Jesus. Many have tried to go through life without following Jesus the blessed Saviour, but have failed. Knowing this, we realize that we must follow one who knows the way. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Jesus, who has redeemed us from all sin by His death on the Cross and gives us victory over sin, is worthy of being followed—therefore, we are following Him.

### It Is the Safe Way

for our young people. The world at present is bidding a thousand for one thing for our young people, and,

if they follow the ways of the world, we can only see that thousands of young lives will be wrecked and will plunge into an unhappy life ending in a Christless eternity. The way of the world is unsafe for our young people. Oh! if they would only realize and see the folly of continuing in the ways of the world. But how different Jesus' way is! Perfectly safe—it is safety first all the way. The young people who follow Jesus are protected from all sides. They see the snares and pitfalls of the devil and the folly of the whole matter because they are walking in the light. To follow Jesus means to walk in the light. Young people who follow Jesus are perfectly safe for this life and the life to come—they just need to continue following Him.

In the second place, it is safe for the parents. We see so many parents in these days following the devil and their children follow them, therefore the whole family is following the enemy of our souls on the wide road to destruction. What a sight! We cannot conceive of a more pitiful scene than a whole family going down to destruction. What an unsafe and dangerous way to travel! No family altar, no religious instruction, on a careless, indifferent way into utter darkness and ruin. If parents follow Jesus, they are in the light and are able to lead their children on into the light. There is the family altar; there are religious instructions—all walking in the light. What a beautiful scene where the whole family is on the way to Heaven. Jesus heads the procession. It is safe for the parents and safe for the children—yes, safe for everybody.

### To Follow Jesus There Must Be

perfect obedience to the Guide, and this obedience demands trust. If I obediently want to follow Jesus, I must also fully trust Him; put all confidence in Him, for He is able to bring us through. Not only obedient along the line that demands no self-denial and sacrifice,

but in all things, no matter how great the sacrifice or how much we must deny ourselves—we must be obedient to Jesus. To fail at this point means a failure of our Christian lives. The realization of the great love of Christ to us—He first loved us—creates the right love in our hearts toward Him who first loved us, and surely, we are glad to obey Him. The following of Jesus is connected with humility. The humility of Jesus was His exaltation. To follow Jesus is to humble ourselves. A follower of Jesus is an humbled person; with pride in his heart, he gets nowhere. Jesus, in His ministry on earth, was known as a man of prayer. He prayed much. He prayed for His disciples, His enemies, and for us. Praise His name. If we were able to follow Jesus in His prayer life, indeed, we would be strong followers of Him. We should follow Jesus in faith, sympathy, service and forgiveness—a forgiveness like when Jesus was reviled, He reviled not again; when He was persecuted, He gave love in return; and when He was crucified, He said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

### We Know We Follow Jesus

First of all because the Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The witness of the Spirit is our evidence that we follow Jesus; why we are His. His Spirit tells us so, glory to His name forever!

In the second place, we know we follow Jesus because we love the brethren. The followers of Jesus are the most loving crowd you ever saw. There is real love among them. Where there is not real love among them, there is not real following of Jesus.

In the third place, a submission to His will has taken place. We sing, “Where He leads me, I will follow,” “I’ll go with Him through the Garden,” etc.

In the fourth place, God answers our prayers. What a blessed thing to converse with our Leader—indeed, we

delight in the fellowship of our Saviour through the Holy Ghost.

### The Reward

It pays well to follow Jesus. If there were only the reward in this life of forgiveness of our sin; peace, joy, and a happy life with victory over sin, that would pay well. But, what a blessing to eat the bread and drink the water of life, enjoying His keeping power day by day. We have also assurance of a peaceful and happy dying hour. Some one has rightfully said, "A Christian's death is an invitation for the unsaved to come to Jesus—no anxieties, no fear, no dread, no guilty conscience; battles fought, victories won, the devil defeated, Heaven in view; goodbye earth, welcome Heaven." How long, dear Jesus, how long, 'til we shall see Thee face to face—to leave this world as a child of God is worth all that it costs to live a Christian life. The reward continues over yonder and never ends. Oh! that will be, glory for me. It pays to follow Jesus.

"FOLLOW THOU ME."—Jesus.

## HINDERING THE SINNER

Psalm 1:1

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Our text tells us that "Blessed is the man that stand not in the way of sinners"—in other words, that is not hindering the sinner from coming to God. Just as God's people can be a help to get sinners to God, just so they may hinder them from coming to God. If we as Christian people, would realize the responsibility that rests upon us toward the unsaved, we would indeed be more out and out for Christ than we are. There are so many professed Christians in these days that don't care whether they are a help to the unsaved or not. Such indifferent persons are always a hindrance to the sinners.

### Unsaved Are Hindered

Usually by professed Christians who are not in line with God. The unsaved will look and watch the lives of Christians. They will see how little interest they take in Christian service, and, how careless in attending meetings. They may see him in Church once on Sunday, but never at the prayer meeting. The unsaved say, "Well, they tell me to get saved, but when I see some of those church members so careless in attending the services of the Church, they indeed have not much more than I have." You people that are so careless in attending church services are hindering the sinners from coming to God. Professed Christians may also hinder the sinner by not living up to what they profess. Some folks may be in church every Sunday and at every other service, yet their daily lives and deeds speak so loud that the sinner will say, "Well, if that is Christianity, I do not want it." We cannot blame him, can we? We know



these things are true—the churches are full of this kind of people. On Sunday they can act as holy angels, and during the week, their lives are in harmony with the evil one—the devil. Oh! ye hypocrites, do ye realize the hindrance that you are toward the unsaved, and the many people you keep out of the Kingdom?

Professed Christians may be a hindrance to the sinner in that they are too much like the world. God calls for a complete separation from the world and yet Christianity has been walking so near the world that it has become mixed up with the ways of the world. The churches are now trying to do the work for God by worldly methods. They are trying to draw the people by socials, moving pictures, pool tables, and at some places, dance halls. The sinner sees all this—he thinks and says, “Well, they tell me to get converted, but I wonder from what I shall be converted? The church people do the same as I and I do the same as they, the only difference is, I am not a church member.” He is hindered from coming to God by the worldly methods of the church, as he cannot see the line between God’s crowd and the devil’s crowd.

Sinners are hindered by such Christians who have lost the first love to God, to Christ, the Holy Spirit, the brethren and the unsaved. People that have lost the first love do not say any more, “the love of Christ constrains me.” Further, these people will not talk to the unsaved about their souls’ salvation or pray without being called upon. These people who have lost their first love, do more harm to the cause of Christ than infidelity, drunkenness, thieving, or any other thing. They have the name that they live, but are dead. They do not sing in the spirit; they do not pray in the spirit; and they do not testify nor walk in the spirit. In such a condition, they cannot be a help to the unsaved, but are a hindrance to them.

### Helping the Unsaved

First of all, we can help the unsaved by living a true Christian life—a life in harmony with the Word of God. This is only possible for such as are full of the Holy Spirit. A life in harmony with the teachings of Jesus is a life that counts for God. Such a life counts more and speaks louder than words. Many a sinner has been helped into the Kingdom by the life of a real humble Christian. If all the lives of the professed Christians were in harmony with God, many unsaved people would be helped into the Kingdom.

In the second place, a sinner is helped by talking to him. The words of a true Christian are a power to help people. Where the love of Christ constrains the Christian to speak to the other fellow about his soul's salvation, and his life is in harmony with what he says, and what he says is backed up by the Holy Spirit, such work will not remain unfruitful, but will be helpful.

A sinner may also be helped by being kind to him even though he is a rough character. Prayer is also a mighty power to help the unsaved. Christians that live right are helping the sinner. Christians that live crooked are hindering the sinner because they have stepped over the line and are on the same territory as the sinner. Such people cannot help the sinner, but are hindering him.

### God Says

"Blessed is the man that standeth not in the way of sinners." Now a man that is not blessed of God is cursed. If we want to enjoy the blessings of God, let us not hinder the sinner from coming to God, but live and act according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you want God to say to you, "Blessed," do not stand in the way of sinners. Jesus died for them and He wants to save them.

May God send conviction in the church that is hindering the sinners. When they get right with God, the sinner will get right.

## GROWING IN GRACE

II Peter 3:18

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Usually, at the beginning of a New Year, resolutions and plans are made for the coming year, and these should be carried through. But one of the most important resolutions that one can make is, that we want to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If we are Bible Christians, we say before all other things

### We Must and Will Grow in Grace

That we may be rooted deeper into God's love. This without doubt, is the most important part. The deeper we are grounded in God's love, the better we are able to withstand the storms of life that meet us on that great voyage across life's sea. So many have been unrooted in the last years because they were not rooted deep enough in the love of God.

We must also grow in grace, that we get stronger to witness for our Lord and grow stronger to do God's will. We are so weak to witness for Christ, although we have many opportunities. May God help us to grow in grace.

### Growth is Expected

God expects of His children that they grow in grace. He does not like to see His children remain babes all their lives. No, He has made provision that they shall grow into manhood and get strong in order that they may be able to do something in His vineyard. Just as we parents like to see our children grow and get strong, so that they are able to do something, so God wants to

see His children grow out of babyhood into real manhood to real strong men and women in the Lord. Then we shall not be found lying in the ditch, having been blown over by some storm that happened to strike us on our voyage to eternity. May God find the expected growth in His children.

In the second place, the Church expects growth from its members, who are supposed to be God's children. What is the use of being a church member and not getting stronger in our Christian lives? Instead of helping the Church, the Church must help us. It is a sad fact, but nevertheless true, that at least one-half of the so-called Christians are remaining babes. They have not grown in grace from the time they were converted. The minister has a job on hand to have the needed bottles ready for these babies, many of them becoming sick because they got sour milk from the bottle. As soon as we get saved and unite with the Church, the Church expects us to grow in grace. May the Church find its expected growth in each and every member.

Parents of converted children expect their children to grow in grace. The children also expect the same of parents. No doubt, every father and mother watches their children from the time of their conversion as to how they grow in grace, and they have a right to expect growth. Parents are greatly delighted to see their children progress in their Christian lives. The community also expects growth in grace of those who profess to have taken a stand on the Master's side. It is a sad thing that we so often see in these days—new converts and even older ones, will progress nicely for a while, when there comes a stop and the growth goes the other way. Soon—yes, too soon, they are living again at the same place where they lived before they took a stand. This is one of the greatest detriments to the Christian work there is. Is the expected growth in grace found in your Christian life? Even the devil expects those who

get saved to grow in grace. You will grow or you will die. Are you growing in grace?

### What is Necessary?

First of all, we must see the need of it, and that it is a necessity for us to grow in grace. In the second place, the new and divine life must be implanted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. There is no spiritual growth if the new life is not there. This is very often the cause of people remaining the same one year after another, making no headway. In other words, they are not born again. The new life only comes with the new birth. It is further necessary, after the new life is implanted, that we walk in the light. Life needs light in order to grow. This is true in the natural sense and also in the spiritual sense. Life not only demands light, but it also demands moisture. These two are necessary for natural growth and also necessary for spiritual growth. A great responsibility rests upon the preacher that he give his people the needed food. Very often and to a great extent, the growth in grace of a congregation may be credited to the preacher. The preacher must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to give the needed food to his people, so that it will be both light and moisture unto them. Then again, on the other hand, it is necessary that all sin be put away. If sin is in the life, it is always a great hindrance to growth in grace. That is why many people cease to grow—because sin has entered into their lives. All sin must be put away. Further, it is an independent obedience to God. Some people obey only as far as somebody lets them. Some young people will only be obedient as far as their parents let them, or, sometimes even the church to which they belong, or the preacher. In order to grow in grace, we must be obedient to God, whether parents, husbands, wives, church, or preacher object. We must obey God rather than man.

In conclusion, I want to put the question before us.



"How much have we grown in grace since we were saved?" May God give us grace to grow in grace and find the expected growth

## TRUE HAPPINESS CONSISTS IN DOING GOD'S WILL

John 13:17; I John 2:17

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It is always pleasant to hear from the people who have captured the secret of true happiness; for they are able to tell others how to enter the state of true happiness. Our text says: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." In other words, happiness consists in doing the things that we know God wants us to do. James 1:25 reads as follows: "Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word; this man shall be blessed of God." And a man who is blessed of God is a happy man. Therefore, doing God's will brings true happiness to the human heart.

### How May I Know God's Will?

Paul tells us in Col. 1:9 that God will fill His people with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. The knowledge of our duty is the best knowledge. Our knowledge of the will of God must always be practical. Our knowledge is then a knowledge indeed! The Colossians had knowledge but they must have more; it was a privilege to be filled with it. As the sun in the firmament of heaven fills the whole world with light and heat, so the light of the sun of righteousness shall illuminate their whole souls and fill them with divine splendor, so that they might know the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. In other words, that they might have such a knowledge of divine things as the Spirit of truth can teach to the soul of man.

### It Is God's Will

that we should be sanctified. I Thess. 4:3. God has called us to holiness, and He requires that we should be set apart for His service and that we should be holy, for without holiness no one can see the Lord. A sanctified child of God has a holy heart, and a holy person has true happiness.

It is God's will that we should give thanks. I Thess. 5:18. We should be thankful in every condition. It is never so bad with us, that it might not be worse. All things work together for the good of them that love God. Therefore every occurrence in life may be a subject for thankfulness, for this is the will of God that we should always be happy and ever in a spirit of prayer. (I Thess. 5:17.) We should profit through every occurrence in life and be continuously thankful, and true happiness will abide in our hearts.

It is the will of God that the Gospel should be made known in the world. The Christian Church as a whole is living too much for self in these days. She is not doing God's will as she ought to in carrying out God's command: "Preach the Gospel to every creature." For this reason many a congregation is lacking true happiness. If we are a blessing to someone with the blessing that God has blessed us with, it will make us happy.

It is God's will that we should be obedient to His voice. Jer. 7:28. Thanks be to God that He speaks to His people and that His voice is definite and His plan can be understood by His children. It is not enough that we hear His voice, but we must obey it. God says: "If ye will obey my voice, I will be your God, and ye shall be my people." Indeed there is true happiness in a heart that is obedient to God's voice.

It is God's will that we should walk in His ways. Jer. 7:28. God has a way for every child of God, and He wants His children to walk in it. God's way is a safe way, a pleasant way, and the only way. If we

walk in God's way, it will be well with us and why shouldn't true happiness abide in our hearts if it is well with us?

### A Comforting Promise

"The world passeth away and the lust thereof. But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." I Jno. 2:17. If we are doing God's will in living a holy life, in giving thanks, in making the Gospel known in the world, in obeying in His service and walking in His ways, we will abide forever. Let us do God's will even in the most trying hour, and the happiness shall never flee from us. Dear reader, the reason why you are not as happy in your Christian life as you were in the past, is that you have failed to do God's will in some detail of your life. Let us continue to do God's will and true happiness will never vanish.

## ETERNITY

Isaiah 27:15

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Eternity is one of the greatest and deepest subjects that we can approach, because it concerns the future. Some people tell us that we must not approach subjects like "Eternity" because people differ as to the meaning of the word. The Bible is a safe book, however, where we can find out what it says on the subject. With the Bible on our side we are safe.

### What We Understand by Eternity

1. With respect to God Eternity is a duration without beginning and without end. God always was, is, and will be.

2. With respect to humanity it is a duration that has a beginning, but will never have an end. A certain writer gives the following definition: "It is a duration that excludes all numbers and computations, days and years, yea, the ages are lost in it like a drop in the ocean, millions and millions of years, as many years as there are sands on the seashore, or particles of dust in the globe of the earth, and those multiplied by the highest imaginable number—all are nothing compared to Eternity." All these will come to an end as certainly as a day, but Eternity will never, never, never come to an end. It is time without an end. It is an ocean without a seashore. Alas! What shall I say of it? It is an infinite, unknown something, that neither human thought can grasp, nor human language describe.

### What is Connected with Eternity?

1. The existence of man is connected with it, that is, the invisible part of man (soul). Matt. 10:28. The



Bible does not tell us much about the soul, but enough to let us know that it is something distinct from the body, capable of being separated from the body into another world, and of living through Eternity. Jno. 6:27, 54.

2. Believers' happiness shall be eternal, as they shall be with the Lord forever. He is the Author of an eternal salvation. Heb. 5:9. Bless the Lord for a redemption that is not only for the present but that holds good for all eternity. Paul speaks in II Tim. 2:10 and II Cor. 4:17, of an eternal weight of glory. A human tongue or pen cannot describe what that will mean to the one who is a partaker of this glory. All these mentioned things are an eternal inheritance of the believers. Heb. 9:15. Shouldn't all this make a believer happy through all eternity? Indeed it will. Bless the Lord!

3. The unsaved ones are also connected with Eternity. But instead of being with the Lord throughout Eternity they will be with the devil, and therefore under an eternal damnation. Mark 3:29. What this will mean for a human soul can only be realized by those who are under such damnation. Under this eternal damnation they are kept in everlasting chains under darkness. Jno. 6; II Pet. 2:4. Not only that they will be in a damned state, reserved in chains, but they will also be under an everlasting punishment. Matt. 25:46. The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. II Thess. 1:7-9. All these mentioned things are connected with Eternity.

### This Subject Shall Lead Us

to a high view of God. He said He only is the one that always was, and therefore how great and unsearchable is God!

This subject should also lead us to a high view of man who is a candidate for Eternity, an immortal and deathless being. And further it leads us to think of the shortness of time. What is time in comparison with Eternity? Shouldn't this urge men to spend this short time rightly, so that they can forever be with the Lord instead of the devil? Much sooner than we think, many of us will be at the gate of Eternity, which is the passage to heaven or hell, both of which are in existence throughout Eternity.

This subject of eternity should daily impress our minds. In all our undertakings let us always think of eternity, and preach, sing, pray, hear and live for the Master with a whole heart. How necessary it is to be serious, wise, sincere and watchful!

## THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 2:4; 4:31

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"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance. And when they had prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they spoke the Word of God with boldness."

Jesus had been crucified, had been buried, and had risen from the grave. For forty days after His resurrection He was with His disciples on earth and ended up with the ascension to His Father. His disciples went back to Jerusalem in the upper room and prayed. And suddenly the Holy Ghost in all His fullness came upon them. Peter, in the power of the Holy Ghost, said: "This promise is for you and your children" (Acts 2:39). All this was a glorious manifestation of God's presence.

### **All Need the Holy Ghost in His Fullness**

for the tasks of life, in whatever field those tasks lie. The preacher needs this blessing if he wants to be a successful worker in the Master's cause. So it is with every worker in the church and with every lay member. If this were true of all the present-day churches, what a big harvest of souls could they reap for the Lord!

If all business men were filled with the Holy Ghost, there would not be so much profiteering and we would not have so many millionaires. The business man needs the fullness of the Holy Ghost.

This gift is also good for the farmer. A farmer once said, this gift is a good thing for the preacher, but it is not for me—I work mules. Then the preacher remarked, that if any man needed the Holy Ghost in full measure, it was the man who works with mules; and do not

think that preachers do not work with mules sometimes. I know of no class of men who have a larger experience with "kickers" than the preacher. Yes, the farmer needs and should have this gift in all its fullness.

All machinery of the church may be in good order, but it is not ready for business until it is filled with the Holy Ghost. To be full of the Holy Ghost is the privilege of every child of God.

### **This Fullness Means the Fullness of Joy and Peace**

God says He will fill us with joy and peace. There is so little joy manifested amongst God's people, and instead of having peace in the heart and in the church, there are wars and rumors of wars. One thing is sure, either they have not given God an opportunity to fill them, or they have not retained the fullness.

It means also the fullness of power in our lives. We indeed need a power in our life to down every enemy that comes in our path as a Christian. God is willing to fill us with power, which enables us as a church to be a victorious church, and also victorious individuals. It is sad to say that many a church has not sufficient power to lead one sinner a year to Christ, cannot even hold their own. Where the fullness of the Holy Spirit is there is power, not only enough to hold our own, but also to continually conquer new territory.

It means also "Liberality." (Acts 4:32.) Neither said any one of them, that aught of things which he possessed was his own. In other words, their possessions belonged to God, and therefore they did good with their possessions.

Recently a certain brother told me that they never had any collections in his church; their stationary free-will-offering box contained always the money needed for home and foreign missions; they never asked anybody for money. The Holy Ghost told them just what to give, and they got all they needed. My! my! what a lot of

begging in some churches! If these people would see to it that the church would receive the Holy Ghost in His fullness, this would mean liberality in giving, and no begging would be necessary—and what a relief that would be for some of the deacons!

It means zeal and courage. (Acts 4:13; 8:4.) They that were scattered abroad went everywhere, preaching the Word. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned men they marveled. Are we not lacking the zeal and courage Peter and John had after Pentecost? Indeed we are, at least many of us. The lack of zeal and courage shows that we are lacking the fullness of the Holy Ghost.

It also means the fullness of utterance. (Acts 2:4.) And when they were filled with the Holy Ghost they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance!

### **If the Heart is Not Full of the Holy Spirit**

something else will fill it. Such things as envy. There is so much of envy amongst God's people in these days that a person hardly dares to do anything for the Master, but praise the Lord, a Spirit-filled person rather works and stumbles, even if being criticised, than does nothing, but grumble about other people's work. A heart full of the Holy Ghost has no envy.

At the present time there are many trouble-makers in the churches, who succeed wonderfully in stirring up all kinds of trouble. Holy Ghost people are peace makers, and not trouble makers. Malice, hatred, wrath, etc., will occupy the heart if the Holy Ghost does not possess it.

### **Condition on Which the Holy Ghost is Given**

We believe there is such a thing as the fullness of the Holy Ghost for the human soul. There must be a hunger and thirst for it. Isa. 44:3—"I will pour water upon him that is thirsty," etc.



John 7:37—"If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." If we are thirsting for the fullness of the Holy Ghost, the good Lord will not withhold the satisfying portion, but will give what we need.

In the second place there must be prayer. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him" (Luke 11:13)?

In the third place there must be faith (John 7:38). But this spake he of the Spirit which they that believe on him should receive.

In closing we want to bear in mind that a real cleansing must also have taken place in our hearts.

## DUTIES OF THANKSGIVERS

Isaiah 1:2, 3

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We are all more or less familiar with the story of Israel—how good God was to them, but all in vain. Instead of being faithful and true to God, Israel went back on God. Israel received much from God but was not thankful.

### Israel Had Great Reasons to be Thankful

God had called them to be a special people, yes, His people, who should fill a very special place in this world, through whom God manifested Himself to the world. We find Israel to be the greatest kingdom, under the reigns of David and Solomon, that ever existed.

God had also prospered them in so many ways. They were in need of nothing. God favored them above all other people. Taking into consideration all these blessings, Israel surely had reasons to be thankful.

God says Himself, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord hath spoken. I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." In a few words, Israel, instead of being grateful to God for everything they had received from Him, rebelled against God.

### We too Have Great Reasons to be Thankful towards God

We have been nourished and have been brought up by God, and have also been unthankful so many times. Let us consider a few facts in our everyday life. If my

heart would stop beating I would drop lifeless. Who am I that this should not happen! It has happened to so many during this past year, and I have been spared. Lord, I thank Thee for sparing me.

We see an ambulance hurrying to the nearest hospital with a person that has met with a serious accident somewhere. That could have been me, but God in His infinite love has spared me. Lord, I thank Thee for being so kind to me.

We see so many people round about us, in poor health and subject to a disease of some kind, that perhaps no doctor can cure. We walk about in health and strength, able to do our daily work, besides helping the other fellow. Lord, I thank Thee for keeping my body in such good condition.

We see so many people that have a hard struggle financially, they are more down than up. They cannot meet the needs of the home. Everything shows that the struggle is hard. We look at ourselves and we find that our needs are met in every detail. There is plenty of everything, not only for the present, but also for the future; houses, farms, bank accounts, etc. Lord, we thank Thee for all this.

We find so many homes that are not happy. There are sick and crippled children. There is something there to rob the home of happiness. We have a happy home. wife and children about us, all are cheerful and enjoy the blessings of life. We thank Thee, dear Lord.

We look across the waters and we find the misery that is existing in many of the nations, starvation and disease and numerous other things that make life hard. There are many things in our country that could be different and yet we live in the best country in the world, where there is plenty of food and raiment, and no one needs to starve. We need not send our children to some other country to get food, etc. We thank Thee, dear Lord.

We must also take into consideration the privilege

of worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth, and the free grace that the dear Lord bestows on us daily, for the truths that have been revealed to us in the past year. Even the poorest can enjoy these blessings and have something to thank the Lord for.

Who are we that God should not take these blessings away from us and give them to some one else? So many of us are always asking and forget to thank God for what we have received.

**Has our Thanksgiving been in Proportion to our Asking?**

I think, many times our asking has far exceeded our thanksgiving. What was true of Israel is true of us: many of us do not consider the blessings received from God. Our worship has become a mere form. So many of the churches have been doing things God never told them to do. They have been political institutions instead of soul-saving stations.

As a rule when somebody does us a good turn we want to do something in return. The God who loves us and preserves us from harm, accidents, danger and illness, giving us the necessities of life, is nothing less and we should do something in return. We are so in the habit of taking God's gifts and failing to render Him the due thanks. Indeed He has blessed us more than we asked for.

Let us show our thankfulness and appreciation to God for all good things received; that we serve Him with a whole heart and help along His cause, in that we pray for the work that is carried on by His people, but not only pray, but also give to the needy. It is a grand thing to be blessed of the Lord, but a greater thing to be a blessing to others with the blessing we received from God. I would rather die a pauper and be buried in a rough lumber box in a potter's field and have been a blessing and help to some one else, than to die a well-to-do man, leaving farms and bank accounts to my children or somebody else, and not have been a blessing to

someone else with the blessing wherewith the Lord has blessed me. Brethren, let us make a special offering to God this next Thanksgiving Day. Let us not only give from our surplus, but dig down deep and give of the things we expected to use ourselves and say: "Lord, we do this because we appreciate what you have done for us." A person that manifests a thankful heart is indeed a joyous person.



## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

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The Church of Jesus Christ is often compared with a herd; Jesus as the Shepherd, we Christians as the sheep. The Church is also called the vine, the Christians the branches and further we find that it is called "the bride of the Lamb." Paul, in the 12th chapter of Corinthians, is calling the Church the body of Christ and we as Christians make out the different members of the body. As the members of our natural body sympathize one with another, so do Christians that are members of the body of Christ sympathize one with another. This is called Christian sympathy.

What is Christian sympathy?

Christians are those people who have taken Jesus as their Saviour, who are regenerated by the Holy Ghost and by adoption have become sons of God. They believe in the finished work of Christ and follow the teaching of Christ. To sympathize means to have a common feeling as of bodily pleasure or pain, a feeling corresponding to that which another feels. In other words, fellow feeling; to suffer with our fellow man when hungry, poor, sick, downhearted; when going through trials, temptations, failures, making mistakes or overtaken with faults. It also means to rejoice with our fellowman when everything comes his way, in prosperity, health, when exalted, etc. We find a real illustration of this kind of sympathy is the fulfilling of the command of Jesus, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Christ had the above named sympathy. Christians will have Christian sympathy.

Christian sympathy is necessary because we as Christian people are members of the same body. As this spiritual body is compared with the natural body, we there-

fore look to our natural body and find the different members all busy along various lines and that there is real unity among the members, one member protecting the other. The ear hears the danger sound and it sends the signal to the rest of the body what is coming and a warning. When a stone is flung at our head, the hand will try to protect the head from getting hurt. If a part of the body gets hurt the hand will rub the sore place. We find a real sympathy among the members of our bodies. If a member of our body is hurt all the other members suffer to a certain extent.

So it is with the members of the body of Christ. All members are needed. As Christians and members of the body of Christ, Christ is our Head. Do we sympathize one with another as the members of our bodies do?

Perhaps as a Christian I am getting along nicely: all things are coming my way, nothing I need is withheld. But what about that poor brother who has a hard pull to get through? Do I sympathize with him? And that sick brother or sister just about able to move along—do I think of them? And what about the one that is passing through a severe trial on account of failure or some other cause? Do I really sympathize with the folks that do not get along as well as I do?

On the other hand, those members of this body that are getting along fine and are rejoicing because the Lord has prospered them naturally, spiritually, exalted them, etc., do I really rejoice with them as a member of the same body? Christian sympathy will do this.

At the present age we find that Christian sympathy is lacking so much and at places almost altogether. Instead of sympathizing with the suffering, down-hearted and those that pass through trials, it is often said, It serves him right, he had that coming. Then again, if some one is doing good, is exalted and prospers, often instead of rejoicing with him, there is envy. Brethren, these things ought not so to be. Let us live up to the standard of the Gospel and there will be Christian sym-

pathy. The Bible teaches Christian sympathy as one of the main characteristics of a Christian. Let us protect one another as members of the same body.

It is also necessary to have Christian sympathy because the non-Christian expects that we as Christians have a Christlike sympathy one with another. May the good Lord show us the real need of sharing real Christian sympathy one with another.

The results will be marvelous. Individual members will be built up, they will become much stronger; and if the individuals are edified, the whole congregation will be built up, which we need so much in our day. The Church is facing a critical period and in order to come out victorious she must be well built up and this is possible if all the members are in harmony with God and with one another. Christian sympathy will thus be exercised.

Further, it will work out the real unity and in unity there is strength and a strong Church is able to do her duty. Christ's prayer in the 17th chapter of John will be answered: "Father, that they may be one that thou hast given me."

Brethren, let us practice Christian sympathy and thereby we please God and make our fellow Christians as well as ourselves happy. The non-Christian will see and desire to have this same fruit of the Spirit. May Jesus our Saviour help us to sympathize one with another as Christ sympathizes with us.

## MY RECORD AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Luke 13:6-9

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Time works the greatest changes in the individual, the home, the Church, the nations, and the things connected with them. When Napoleon led his wearied army on to the plains of Waterloo, the day before the battle as the end of the day was nearing, it was too late for him to make precisely the disposition he desired and had intended. As the light was fading he pointed toward the setting sun and said, "What would I not give to be this day possessed with the power of Joshua: Sun, stand still, and retain my march two hours?" Lord Wilmington said to the Duke of Newcastle, once Prime Minister of England, that he loses a half hour every morning and runs after it all day, without being able to overtake it. The sun did not stop at Waterloo and the duke did not catch the lost time.

### Time

Time is a continuous succession, not backward, nor to the right nor to the left, a succession straight forward, and it is impossible to stop it. We have come to the last day of the year, and we cannot help but think that time is passing by in a hurry, and that it is resistlessly carrying us somewhere.

### The Man With the Vineyard

The above verses tell of a fig tree that failed to bear fruit and show also that the man had a record of each tree in the garden. This shows that the owner was interested in every tree of the garden, and that it had his protection. We as Christians are planted in God's vineyard.

What a privilege and blessing to be a tree in God's vineyard. As the owner of the vineyard had a record of every tree in the garden, so has God a record of each of us. God protects His trees and is interested in them. He is also cultivating them that they may bear fruit. God has a record of every one of us as Christians. He is cultivating us to make us fruit-bearing Christians. What is my record at the end of this year?

### The Owner Expected Fruit

For this reason he had planted it, had cultivated it and spent much time in making it fruitful. God is expecting fruit of us and He has a right to expect it, because of the advantage of being planted in God's vineyard and enjoying His interest, protection and cultivation. The owner came at the end of each year to look for fruit. As we are at the end of the old year the owner is there and looking for fruit. It is reasonable and just for the owner to come and look for fruit. He has planted us in His vineyard and therefore we belong to Him. The owner was greatly disappointed, for he came with the expectation of finding fruit and he found none. So is God as he comes to look for fruit and finds none.

### The Owner's Complaint

Behold I have come for three years, seeking fruit and find none. A few lessons we may draw from this. God keeps an account of the time and means of grace enjoyed 10, 15, 20, 30, 50 years, etc. God knows what efforts He has put forth to make us a fruit-bearing Christian and how long He has been waiting for fruit, and how we have received these means. It is exceedingly dangerous to enjoy the means of grace unimproved; we become cumberers of the ground. It is also astonishing that so many enjoy the means of grace unimproved. Are we some of those that have enjoyed the means of grace



without getting nearer to God? If so, we are indeed treading dangerous ground. Is this the third year that the owner has been seeking fruit and finds none? I wonder what the owner is saying to the dresser. Is it "I have come for three years seeking fruit and find none; he is a cumberer of the ground"?

### A Backward Look

What have we been in the past year and what has the past year been to us? We must say, it has been a year of mercies. God has been so good to us in so many ways. God has rained all kinds of blessings upon us. It has also been a year of struggles, sickness and even death for many. None of the trials, struggles, and sicknesses have come to us by chance, none of the mercies have come to us by chance — God ordered them, to make us fruit-bearing Christians. What has been the result? Has it led to an utter separation from the world, and a full surrender to God? Have all the storms brought us deeper into His love? Have they caused us to cry: Nearer my God to thee, and we have become fruit-bearing Christians, —or has it all been in vain, and the owner finds no fruit?

### The Doom Pronounced

Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground? Why not, it is natural, reasonable and just to cut down a tree that bears no fruit; it is useless in the garden. So it is with the human being. The owner says to the dresser: This man has been enjoying all means of grace and yet he bears no fruit. Cut it down, cut it down.

### The Dresser's Intercession

He answered and said unto them: Lord, let it be this year also, till I shall dig about it and dung it. —So Christ has been making intercession for us all these years, that He may dig about us and make us fruit-bearing Christians.

This may be the end of digging about us. The owner was ready to cut you down last year, but the Dresser's intercession held back the cutting down, and yet all efforts to make you a fruit-bearing nation have failed. What is our record at the end of this year?

### The Cutting-Down Season Comes

What a heart-rending scene it must be to be cut down as a cumberer of the ground, a fruitless Christian! Millions of dollars for a minute of time! cried Elizabeth, the gifted and ambitious Queen of England upon her death-bed. Unhappy woman, reclining upon a royal couch, with ten thousand dresses in her wardrobe, a kingdom in which the sun never sets at her feet — all are now valueless and she shrieks in vain for a single inch of time! She had enjoyed three scores and ten years. Like too many of us, she had devoted them to wealth, pleasure, ambition and pride, that her entire preparation for eternity was crowded into her last moments, and hence she, who wasted more than half a century, would barter millions for a minute of time. Cut it down, cut it down, I find no fruit.

## THE CHRISTIAN'S TRUE ADORNMENT

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One of the evidences of a true Christian is his adornment. In these evil days and days of apostasy the adornment of many of the professed Christians has become ridiculous and shameful.

### The Inward Adornment

We read in I Sam. 16:7, "The Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart." A great number of people say that God does not care what the outside is, for He looketh on the heart, and not at the outward appearance. We admit that we are sometimes too hasty in judging people by their outward adornment, and yet we believe, if the inside is all right, the outside will and must be all right. There is such a thing that the outward adornment appears to be all right, and yet the inside may be all wrong. But there is no such a thing as having the inward adornment without having the outward adornment, according to God's teachings. Many Christian workers make the mistake in that they start to work on the outward adornment; in other words, they try to reform the evil doers without a change of heart. Our first duty is to work on the inward adornment, and this can not be done by human agency. God himself must do the work in the hearts of men. He regenerates the hearts of men, instead of reforming them. The first thing that God sends to a worldly adorned person is conviction of sin, which means that God shows them that they are going in the wrong direction. If the sinner pays heed to the voice of God, he will repent of his evil ways, he will change his

mind, will not go in the wrong direction, he turns his face towards God and gets converted, which means that he actually turns to God and away from sin, which we call the new birth, the work that God has done in us and we are made free from filth, guilt and sin forever, through the blood of Jesus Christ. The Lord also sanctifies the heart, and holiness of the heart, is the true and appropriate adornment of a Christian. Much care and attention is necessary to the mirror of God's Word, to attain and retain the inward Christian adornment. Where this has taken place and people have come into possession of true Christian adornment, there will be no trouble with the outward adornment.

### What about the Outward Adornment?

The inward adornment works out. It begins on the inside and works out. Gal. 5:22 shows the fruits of a clean heart. They are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, etc. All this comes from the outside; if all this is attained and retained, there would be no need of any rules which Christians should go by. But as humanity is always on the drift one way or the other, the Scripture is full of rules and orders that Christians must obey. Paul and Peter speak plainly on the matter of outward Christian adornment. I Pet. 3:3-5; I Tim. 2:9. The rule in these passages relates to dress of religious women. We find plaiting of hair. This was commonly used in those days by lewd women. This is a common thing in these days. We also read about the wearing of gold or ornaments. We first find that this was practiced by Rebecca and Esther and others. Afterwards ornaments were mostly used by wicked people. This is also practiced altogether too much in these days, not only among the women, but also among men. If the money spent for unnecessary adornment now-a-days would be sent to the starving children in Europe, many a life could be saved. If we as Christians partake in the worldly

outward adornments, we are directly working against the rules and orders of God, that He has laid down for the church.

Putting on of apparel is not absolutely forbidden if it is modest, but we believe that too much curiosity and costly apparel is forbidden in God's Word.

Christian people should take care that their external behaviour is in accordance with the teachings of the Bible, as it becomes Christians. Too often is the outward adornment of the body sensual and excessive, and the fashions are so that they will imitate the levity and vanity of the worst women, which are immodest and wanton. The attire of a harlot can never become a dress of a Christian woman. Someone says, Well, the writer of these lines does not know what he is talking about; he is too narrow altogether.

If you pass by a store and look in to the show-windows, you know at once whether it is a grocery store or not. The show window exhibits what is inside. So it is with the Christian, the outside adornment exhibits what is in the inside, in the heart of men and women.

We believe it is all right to dress neatly, but we cannot perceive that it is proper for a Christian to take part in the fashions of an ungodly world that is bound for hell and destruction. Men that are addicted to tobacco need a cleansing of the heart by the Holy Ghost and also women that are running after the fashion of the world. If we are partakers of the Christian's true adornment, Let us say, Thank you, Lord.



## WHAT KIND OF A CHRISTIAN AM I?

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It is very popular in these days to call ourselves Christians, and without doubt, there is a reason for it. There are many today that call themselves Christians, but have no right to do so, because the very principle that makes them a Christian is lacking in their lives. Let us consider three kinds of Christians:

### The Nominal Christian

This person carries the name "Christian" because he is born in a Christian nation. We meet so many nowadays that think they are Christians because they are born in a Christian nation. Another class is calling itself Christian because either their father or mother or both belonged to a Christian church and for this reason they are born Christians. Still another class calls itself Christian because they have been baptized and are united with a church, and that makes them Christians. These people that we have mentioned are to a certain extent satisfied with mere nominal Christianity. The majority of these people want to be left alone and undisturbed. They show no desire or interest for revival meetings, where God's Spirit begins to stir up things. They despise preaching backed by the Holy Ghost. The nominal Christian likes things in a smooth and quiet way, and cannot understand why people must go to the altar and pray, especially when people begin to weep and cry for mercy; that is beyond his comprehension. Yes, he sees real harm in Holy Ghost revivals, and some will even go as far as to state that such meetings are of the evil one. On the other hand, he sees no harm in cardparties, dancing, theatres, pool-halls, etc. A nominal Christian is to be pitied because of

his preconceived ideas of a Christian damning his soul, while his prejudice against the real stuff is keeping the light out of his soul. Paul says in I Cor. 2:14, "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

### The Carnal Christian

The carnal Christian differs from the nominal Christian in that he believes in revivals, new birth, Holy Ghost preaching and things taught in the Bible, if they do not come too close to His heart, or does not touch the things that he harbors in his heart! Paul states in I Cor. 3:3, "For ye are yet carnal, for as there is among you envy and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as man?" Out of this passage we see at once that we have many carnal Christians among us. As we study other passages with this in view, we find there are quite a number of things that carnal Christians harbor in their hearts. There is "pride"; it is of no use, but causes trouble and is a stumbling block to others. "Anger" is indeed a dangerous thing to harbor, for you never know when it is going to pieces. It is fit for the rubbish heap, and still it is kept, as though it were worth its weight in gold. "Jealousy" is also no good, it only causes unrest in the hearts. The carnal mind is also full of "criticism," which cuts off our view and we can see hardly anything but faults around and about us. The carnal man is also full of partiality, sensitiveness, disobedience, discontentment, etc. Paul said to the Romans, to be carnally minded meant death. There is only one remedy for the carnal mind, and that is the power of the Blood of Christ!

### The Spirit-Filled Christian

When a carnal Christian becomes a Spirit-filled Christian, all these mentioned things will and must go. How much more attractive is a Spirit-filled Christian

than a carnal minded one! Love takes the place of anger, humility the place of pride; jealousy is replaced by kindness and there is no more criticism but forbearance, forgiveness, meekness, etc. It gives the preacher great joy to labor with a Spirit-filled congregation. There's only one way that such a congregation wants to go and that is God's way. Further, a Spirit-filled Christian has victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. There is a passion for souls and a deep longing in the heart to see them saved. Paul again states in Eph. 5:18: "Be ye filled with the Spirit." That means to be full, and only full of the Spirit—room for nothing else. As soon as you harbor in your heart the things mentioned above, then you are not full of the Spirit. There we can know how we stand; if we are full of the Spirit, there is no room for them, because the heart is full of the Spirit. As soon as any of these characteristics that mark a carnal Christian pop up, there is a lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. May God help us all to be full of the Holy Spirit. Let us not forget that it costs our all to give ourselves completely to Jesus. We often sing, "The Blood Keeps Cleansing My Soul," and as the Blood keeps cleansing our soul so the Lord keeps filling it with the Holy Ghost!

Now, dear reader, are you a mere Nominal Christian? Then may the Lord have mercy upon you; let the Lord save you and you will see things in a different light. Are you a Carnal Christian, then we ask you in the name of Jesus, to dig deeper, ask the Lord to cleanse you from all carnal things; He will do it I am sure. Then your heart is ready for the fullness of the Holy Ghost. Dear friend, it is for you! are you a Spirit-filled Christian? Then say: Lord, I thank thee for helping me thus far, to follow Thee all the way! That is the condition to remain in, and go on to perfection in the various Christian graces. May the Lord help us all to be **Spirit-filled Christians** and we will lose sight of everything that is beside. Praise His name for-ever!

## DIVINE GUIDANCE

Jno. 16:13.

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We are all travelers through this life, but we are not all traveling in the same direction. Some are on the way to eternal glory, others on the way to eternal destruction. In this world of disorder and darkness we are not able and wise enough to guide ourselves. The old pagans watched the stars that they might by chance find some sign of guidance. God says in our text that when the Spirit of Truth is come He will guide you into all Truth. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to guide the people of God through their uncertainties, dangers, and duties of this life to their home in heaven.

### The Need of a Guide

As soon as we become a Christian we are traveling a road that we have not traveled before. It is a new way, therefore a guide is necessary. It is natural for unconverted men to follow the devil who is anxious to be their guide and lead them into the pit. We need not only a guide because we do not know the way, but also that we are ignorant of the way, and therefore, man must have a divine guide. It does not matter whether the man is sick, or well, poor or rich, educated or not educated, a professor or a bootblack, a president or a street sweeper, all must have the same guide, the same Spirit to guide them to the right place.

A divine guide is needed because there is a liability and danger of taking the wrong path. Thousands of boys and girls, and older people, are taking the wrong path because they have not the Holy Spirit for their guide. It is heart breaking to think that the greatest

part of the human family is on the wrong side of things and without a divine guide since it is impossible to get to heaven without divine guidance.

### The Holy Spirit is Able

The Holy Spirit is able to guide us right because He knows the way and further, He is not a blind leader as we have so many in these days of apostasy, but He, one with the Father and the Son, with infinite knowledge of the human heart and is acquainted with the trials and difficulties on the way and He finds a way out of the severest troubles. The followers of this divine guide need not worry how to get by dangers and pitfalls on the way. "Glory to God." The Holy Spirit is able to bring us through safely and land us on the inside of the pearly gates where nothing troubles us any more. "Hallelujah!"

### The Present Should be Divinely Guided

If the present is divinely guided then the past is under the blood and we need not worry about the future. The present is the best and the divine Guide wants to guide our present. There are many people who are thinking of some future time to be divinely guided, and thoughtlessly have surrendered their present to be guided by the greatest enemy of the human soul.

This is the most daring thing for people to do. It is playing near hell and finally landing in the pit.

The Lord is able and willing to make something out of men and women that are willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

### Our Duty Toward the Guide

Our first duty toward the Guide is that we must remember to surrender to Him and follow Him all the way. No Christian is able to be victorious in this life without a full surrender to the Holy Spirit and a willingness to



go through with Him no matter what the cost. "Where He leads me I will follow," is a favorite of a real Christian. Running ahead of the guide is very dangerous and the one who does that will surely shipwreck in the Christian life. Full confidence in the guide is also necessary. So many people have too little confidence in the divine Guide and think they can guide themselves better. Poor souls, but finally they must understand the language of the Guide. This is the sweetest voice that comes to a human being.

Is this divine Guide your guide?

## QUARREL

Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:13

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We, as parents, say to our children when they have a little quarrel on, "Children, we must not quarrel, that does not look good, and further, Jesus does not like children to quarrel." When all exhortation fails, we sometimes reach out for the rod. If quarreling were only found among children, it would not be so bad. But it is sad to say that grown folks also quarrel and even professed Christians.

### Children of God Quarrel

It is a very sad thing when children of God quarrel. It hurts our dear Heavenly Father when His children quarrel just as much as it hurts us when our children quarrel. Often little things among God's children are the cause of fussing and fighting. Here is a subject, and, as the thoughts on the subject are different, people who like to quarrel think they have always the right thought and are in the right. The other fellow thinks the same. These two do not agree on the subject—both hold fast to their idea, and soon they are in a heated argument. Other brethren begin to side in and soon a regular church quarrel is on. This could have been avoided if that subject on which they could not agree, was worked through in a loving way. They would have come to some understanding and God's blessing would have rested upon them. We can never come to an understanding or straighten a dispute by quarreling. The quarreling method only makes things worse. Many a congregation has been shipwrecked thru quarrels among themselves; divisions have taken place and hatred has

planted itself into the hearts which many a one has taken along into eternity. Oh! when they woke up, it was too late to get rid of that hatred.

God have mercy upon the folks that quarrel.

### Children of God Must Not Quarrel

They know that it is a sin and that it means ruin to the individual and also to the Church. They also know that thereby, many a soul is kept out of the Kingdom of Heaven, going to destruction instead. They know that the world rejoices when the children of God quarrel one with another. In spite of all this knowledge, they continue to quarrel without even being ashamed of themselves. It is not necessary that Christians quarrel one with another on account of having different ideas of the same subject, such as the mode of baptism, or, on account of slander or gossiping, etc. These things have very often caused division.

The devil is the originator of all strife and quarrels. He comes in these days in the form of men, who will bring in things that will only cause strife. We read in the scriptures, "Woe unto the man through whom cometh offence and strife." Persons that stir up quarrels and strife are as a rule very short-sighted in spiritual things and also very dogmatic in their conception of spiritual truths. In other words, they are moving in a very small circle. When they do not get through with their short-sighted and narrow-minded conceptions, they are ready to quarrel, and about the smallest thing.

### Christians Should Love One Another

How much better to love than to quarrel. We should love each other and stand together as one man in Christ Jesus; bear with one another, overlooking our faults and weaknesses; forgive one another and live in peace. What a great blessing to be in such a state. Christians

ought to fight the devil rather than fussing and fighting among themselves. Jesus says, "Love one another." He gives no room for quarreling. If the spirit of Christ dwells in us, then we love one another, but, as soon as we become carnal-minded, the quarreling spirit will have control of us.

### Paul Says

That quarreling is just as bad, or, puts it on the same level with other works of the flesh which we find in Gal. 5:19-21, namely, "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." It is true we would say that people who do such things are awful. Now, if you are a quarrelsome person, you are one of them, and we read in the same verse, those doing such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. What shall we do if possessed with a quarrelsome spirit? There is only one way and that is to talk to God about it and He will show us a way to get out of it. He has already shown the way to many such people and this is the way—the way of the Cross.

Jesus has power to set me free from all things. We read, "Him that the Son maketh free, is free indeed"—even from quarreling. Praise God's name forever!

## BROTHERLY LOVE

John 13:34, 35; 15:12

One of the many signs of being a child of God on which Jesus Christ puts much weight, is brotherly love. "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall men know that you are my disciples if ye have love one to another."

### Brotherly Love in General

It is a command that we, as God's children, love one another. "He that hateth his brother is a murderer." There is such a big contrast between love and hate. If I have hatred in my heart, I am not a child of God, because the Lord says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one toward another." We should love one another because we all belong to one family. Eph. 3:15. A family is in a bad condition if one member does not love the other. Such a family has no influence in the community where they live. In a family where real love exists, things are different altogether and a good influence is impressed in the community. We cannot help but love one another as children of God, as we all belong to the same family, namely, God's family. We bear witness to the world that we are God's children if we love one another. When we say that we are God's children and do not love one another, we are hypocrites.

### The Quality of God's Love

Brotherly love is based on God's love to us. I John 4:11, 19, "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." We love Him because He first loved us.



Brotherly love springs from our love to God. Now, if I love God with all my heart, I will surely love my brother. The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost is the greatest blessing that can come to us in this life and lasts through eternity. This love is longsuffering, kind, innocent, humble, sacrificing, good, temperate, pure in mind, pure in heart, joyful, triumphant, patient, believing, helpful, strong to endure and eternal. I Cor. 13:4-8.

### Brotherly Love Manifests Itself

In that we pray one for another. Eph. 6:18. This is one of the most precious privileges the children of God have. What a blessing to bring one another to the Throne of Grace. When we neglect to do this, brotherly love is on the decrease. It also manifests itself in that we bear one another's burdens. Gal. 6:2. A Christian's life is connected with many burdens. Many of these are invisible, but no doubt the heaviest ones are the hidden ones. Many a person is breaking down in these evil days under the heavy burden because his brethren are not doing their duty or have forgotten what the Bible says, "Bear ye one another's burdens." If we as Christian people would be more on the job with helping to carry the other fellow's burden, the Church would have a much greater influence in the world at the present age. We are too much for ourselves. "Let everybody help himself" is the thought of the so-called modern Christianity.

Brotherly love also manifests itself in that we bear one with another. Col. 3:13,14. Oh! how weak are we at this point. Instead of bearing one with another, we are doing just the opposite. Instead of talking about a brother who has faults and other disagreeable things, we should pray for him, and also bear with him. I am sure he will bear with us if we bear with him, and we will get along fine.

Brotherly love manifests itself also in that we trust

one another. It is a sad fact that there is but little trusting among many Christian people—there is little confidence among them. It seems to us it is gradually decreasing. Where you find real Christians, there is brotherly love and one brother will trust the other. We find so much distrust in these days. One thinks the other fellow is dishonest if he has a deal with him and is afraid the other brother will get the best of him, while he is trying to get the best of the other fellow. Brethren, that is far from brotherly love.

Where brotherly love exists, there is unity among the brethren. Where there is love, there is unity. These two cannot be separated. If you take love out of Christianity, you have nothing left. These two are great spiritual powers in the Church. The Church will be like a city set on a hill—all aglow for the Lord. Such a Church can make the powers of darkness tremble. If this is kept before us, we shall have a united spiritual and aggressive Church, and it will be the magnetic power to bring the unsaved into the Kingdom.

### Brotherly Love Renewed

It is true that brotherly love has been and is on the decrease in nearly all Christian organizations, no matter how small the congregation. If brotherly love is not renewed, we fear that a collapse in many a Christian organization will take place. It has happened and will happen again.

Let us pray that brotherly love may be renewed by the power of the Holy Ghost.



## WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD DOTH NOT COMMIT SIN

I John 3:8, 9

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

### Born of God

The man that is born of God is a new creature. Old things (the works of the devil are destroyed by the Son of God) have passed away, behold, all things have become new. With the new birth man gets away from his old habits (sinful habits) which are of the devil. (These make an unconverted person a child of the devil). With the new birth, the devil has to move out of the human heart and the Lord Jesus moves in, and, with the coming in of Jesus Christ, a great change takes place in the human heart. The works of the devil are destroyed and it is impossible from that time on to remain any longer in a state of sin. He is born of God and become a new creature—all sinful habits have been put aside. The new nature does not allow man to remain in a state of sinfulness. Paul states in Rom. 6:1, 2, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?" The Son of God has destroyed the works of the devil. A person that is born of God does not need to lie, curse, slander, backbite, use tobacco, dance, spend his time in pool halls, movies, etc. His conscience will not allow him to do these things. He is dead

to sin and therefore not tied by the shackles of Satan. The Son of God hath made him free—the works of the devil are destroyed.

ARE YOU BORN OF GOD?

### Sinfulness

Very often some people try to draw the teaching out of I John 3:9 that a Christian must be sinless. They say it reads, He cannot sin because he is born of God. This, of course, is a false interpretation of the passage. There is a great difference between living in a state of sin and committing an act of sin. No human being will get to a state in this life where he will be sinless and can say with a free and clear conscience, "I never commit an act of sin nor make a mistake." We find also that the Scriptures speak of the sin of omission, and who does not come short at this place? Also through hastiness, many sins are committed and sometimes by the best Christians. The people that say they do not even commit an act of sin nor make a mistake because they are born of God and are sanctified, do not know themselves.

If a person is born of God and kept by the power of God, he will get out of a state of sin and not continue in it any longer. He is a new creature and old things have passed away, but it is impossible to come to a state in our Christian lives that we become sinless—that is, we cannot even commit a sinful deed or make a mistake. There is only one person that was sinless and that was Jesus Christ.

### I Am Doing As Good As I Can

Brethren, let us not err nor be led astray in this direction. We need the blood of Christ to be applied to our hearts daily.

This is what many people say that are still living in a state of sin. They say, "No man can live without sinning." These people are still living in a state of sin



and are not yet spiritually-minded, therefore, they do not understand the difference between living in a state of sin or committing an act of sin. I John 3:8, we read: "He that committeth sin is of the devil." You say, "I am doing as good as I can under conditions. All men sin and therefore I am all right." The Word of God says you are a child of the devil and bound with the fetters of the devil. Jesus has also come for you, to destroy the works of the devil in your heart. Praise God for His love to us!

So, as the one goes to the extreme on the one side as to the teaching of sinfulness, the other goes to extremes on the other side. They call themselves the children of God and at the same time, live in a state of sin, bound by Satan, and therefore are still children of the devil instead of being children of God. I John 3:7, "Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." The question is not, "Am I doing as good as I can?" but "Am I born of God and no longer living in a state of sin?"

When we are born of God, we have the promise that we are kept by the power of God and need no longer live in a state of sin. The thought that "I am doing as good as I can," under conditions, is abolished in Jesus in that He has become our all in all and with His help it is possible to lead a victorious life. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.

## ASSURANCE

I John 5:13

A life without assurance of salvation is an unhappy and miserable life. We often meet people that have not the assurance. Many are ignorant about it; others say it is impossible to know in this life that we are saved. They do not believe in assurance of salvation. "The best we can do is to hope so." Surely such a life is a life without spiritual light.

### The Bible is Clear

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5:13.

In Job 19:25 we read, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job had no doubt about his assurance. Paul states in II Tim. 1:12, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Paul also was sure of his soul's salvation.

Again in Rom. 8:16 we read, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." We come to the conclusion after reading these verses that it is the privilege of every child of God to be sure in this life of his soul's salvation.

### Assurance Brings Joy

A person that has assurance of salvation has joy in the Lord. The past may have been full of cares and complaints; the present is threatened by the enemy of our souls from all sides, trying to rob us of everything;

the future looks dark; but we finally get to the place where we say, "Devil, you may rob us of everything, but one thing you dare not touch, and that is, the assurance of my salvation." Praise God forever! Heartily we join in the song, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; Oh! what a foretaste of glory divine." The joy that comes through assurance is my strength in the days of testing and trials, and our comfort all the days as long as we live. Praise the Lord for the assurance of salvation!

### **Assurance Gives Power**

A child of God must have power to be victorious over sin. The temptations are many and strong. How will I overcome them, that I may go forth a victorious man? Assurance comes in and says, "I am a child of God, and the God who is the Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will give me victory over the past." But, when the past has victory over the present, then we doubt if assurance of salvation is really there—in other words, a child of God with assurance is mastering the past. The lack of assurance gives the past victory over the present. Someone says that the victory is in the Blood of Christ. That is true, and in the blood alone is the power, but we must have the assurance that the Blood of Christ has made us free and is cleansing us daily. All the demons in hell and in the air are not able to overcome a child of God that has the assurance of salvation and who is trusting in the blood for cleansing from all sin.

### **Assurance Brings Love**

A person that has the assurance of salvation is a person full of love. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. This love goes deeper than the love to our children, parents, husbands, and wives. The love of God is over all others. "God, I cannot do otherwise; I love Thee because I know I am Thy child through Jesus

Christ, my Saviour." There is also a special love for God's people. People that have the assurance of salvation love one another. It does not matter to what Church they belong; whether rich or poor, we are all one in Christ. Often we hear people talk about other folks and other churches in a slanderous way, trying to undermine them. No doubt such a person is lacking assurance.

There is also a love for the unsaved. They will do all they can to bring them to God, that they may also get the assurance of salvation. Then, there is a love for their enemies. This love is only known by those that have real assurance. To love the ones that love us is not hard—any old sinner can do that, but to love those that hate us and are our enemies, is a gift of God that comes to us with the assurance of salvation. There is also a love for everything that is good.

### **Assurance Brings Separation**

Assurance of salvation brings a complete separation from the world. In these evil days, we meet people that tell us they know they are the children of God, yet they do not live separated from the world, taking part in almost all worldly pleasures. One usually finds them where the worldly people are enjoying themselves—the only difference between them and the worldly crowd being that you find them in the church once in a while. Surely these people have not the assurance of salvation. A true child of God says, "I am in Grace and have the assurance of salvation, and this helps me to separate myself from the worldly things for such goods. I want to be true to my God and with His help, withdraw myself from all things that are displeasing to my God. I will even avoid all evil appearance."

### **How May I Get Assurance?**

The first step is repentance. This comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work

on the Cross—a full surrender to God; dedicating our lives to God; being obedient; following Him where He leads us, with watchfulness and prayer.

Let us thank God for assurance of salvation. God has done His part and if we do our part, we shall not lack assurance.



## THE DEVIL ON THE JOB

I Peter 5:8; Job 1:7

The devil never goes on a vacation. He is always on the job. The devil is the adversary of our souls; as a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour. The Lord said to Satan, "Whence comest thou?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." These scripture verses show that the devil is surely busy and always on the job.

### The Devil on the Job with the Individual

He walketh to and fro seeking whom he may devour. Satan takes every chance that he gets to lay hold on the individual. He lets no opportunity slip by. We have a clear picture or illustration of this in the Garden of Eden when he took Eve alone. The devil was too cunning for Eve. She fell and her husband with her, and plunged the whole human race into sin. When the heart of the individual is not full of the Holy Ghost, then the devil has not far to go. He generally finds them near the tree, just like he found Eve. The devil will take them alone and their fall is sure, but, if the heart is full of the Holy Spirit, the devil has little chance of taking the individual alone and there is power to resist the tempter. The devil is a constant watcher of the individual and knows all the points of a person. To discourage the individual in the Christian life is one of his specialties.

### The Devil on the Job in the Home

There has never been a time in the history of the world when there were so many broken-up homes as

at the present. What is the matter? The devil is on the job for he knows his time is short. It would not be so awful if only homes of the ungodly people were broken up, but the many homes that are shattered among professed Christians, is heartrending. Why is it the devil is on the job, and further, that even ministers' homes are dragged into the mud and divorces are taking place? It is a shame that professed Christians and even ministers have to go to court and have their family troubles settled. The devil surely is on the job to destroy the home and by this he strikes at the very heart of civilization. God have mercy on humanity!

### The Devil on the Job in the Church

It is a sad fact, but true nevertheless, that many congregations are, to a large extent, controlled by the enemy of our souls. Paul says, "There is envying, strife, and divisions amongst you." This is true of to-day. Envy is playing a great factor in the Church to-day. It proves that the devil is on the job. In many congregations there is strife. The members are quarreling among themselves—they cannot co-operate.

Everybody wants his or her own way. It shows that the devil is on the job. The strife is followed by divisions, which is another sign that the devil is on the job. I believe there is no greater hindrance to Christ's Cause than for God's people to fuss and fight among themselves instead of fighting the devil. Brethren, if there is anything outside of real love and unity in Christ, it shows that the devil is on the job. God gives the Church all kinds of opportunity to work for their Master, but it is a sad fact that the Church is not moving like a mighty army against the devil's forces. If it does move at all, it moves very slowly. It seems to me the Church has settled in the trenches and has, to a great extent, forgotten what her mission is. Many a church could, with a clear conscience, put up the sign, "Devil, let us alone, and we will let you alone." By remaining in the

trenches the Church is not conquering new territory from the devil, while the devil is on the job and is conquering new territory from the Church. As the Church fails to get out of the trenches and to go over the top to conquer new territory for God, the devil is on the job and comes and introduces all kinds of worldly amusements into the Church. We will just refer to the community church. What you find there, the worldly places of amusement offer the same to the public. We need no Church to amuse ourselves—the world bids that, but the devil makes people believe that they can take part in all these things because it is done in a church building and go to Heaven. The devil knows how to raise money for the preacher through worldly amusements and how to get a crowd, at least for a little while. It is sad to say that many a church has adopted the devil's plan to keep the church going. Very often this worldly bunch is holding revival meetings at least once a year to satisfy the honest hearts that are still among them. Of course, they do not like a preacher who preaches that the Blood washes us from all sin, or the new birth, but they like a preacher who knows how to entertain them without aiming at the heart or at the root of sin. All this due to the fact that the devil is on the job. The non-church-going people have, to a large extent, lost all confidence in the Church because of its worldliness. Many social meetings have been held and the cause of Christ neglected. The so-called Christian people are satisfied in these worldly ways. "As long as nobody bothers us, we will bother nobody else." Brethren, there is something seriously wrong somewhere. **THE DEVIL IS ON THE JOB.**

### What Shall We Do?

The devil is on the job. Shall we look on and see him continue his work of destruction around about us unhindered? We say, "No, no, a thousand times no." Where are we as real Christians, as preachers, and leaders

of our churches? Why are we not on the job to fight the devil with all our power in the strength of God? How can a child of God that is stirred with compassion for the lost look on any longer?

May God show us what to do and help us to move like a mighty army against the devil, who is on the job for the destruction of souls. Brethren, let us watch the devil and with God's help take up arms against him.







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